

copying machines include both image reading (document scanning) and printing in the same unit. As such, a single color correction step is used to compensate for characteristics of both the scanning step and the printing step. This is the case with Koike, as described in column 2, lines 10-22, noted by the examiner. This section suggests that a single color correcting operation 25 (FIG 6) in a color reading apparatus (in a color facsimile or color copying machine) can compensate for both the characteristics of the image reading apparatus (e.g. the light source, color separating filter, CCD sensor spectral sensitivity) and the color reproducing characteristic of a printer. Clearly, this is possible only when the color reproducing characteristic of the printer is known as the image is scanned and color corrected. Obviously, the single color correction operation (25 in FIG 6 or 9 in FIG 5) could not possibly correct for two different color reproducing characteristics of two different printers at the same time.

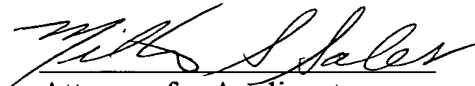
The present invention is directed to a digital camera that can be connected to separate color printers. The digital camera captures digital images, processes the captured images, and stores the captured images in a nonvolatile memory. This processing includes a first color space transformation to compensate for the color characteristics of the digital camera. This first color space transformation is independent of the characteristics of the printer, since the characteristics of the printer to be used are not yet known. Subsequently, the digital camera is connected to a separate printer having predetermined process colors and printing process characteristics. The digital camera then processes the stored image prior to printing. This processing includes a second color space transformation to compensate for the characteristics of the printer. Thus, there are two separate color space transformation steps, both provided by the digital camera.

The use of two separate color space transformation steps within a digital camera or other image reading device, one prior to storage to compensate for the camera characteristics, and one after storage, but prior to printing to compensate for the printer characteristics, is not described or implied by any of the references, taken singularly or in combination. For example, Koike et al. describe an image reader with a single color correction operation (25 in FIG 6 or 9 in FIG 5).

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that in view of the above amendments and remarks, that this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 24,516

Milton S. Sales/jrk
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (716) 253-0127
Facsimile: (716) 726-9178